

**Amendments to th claims**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. A computer implemented method for creating a buyback investment report comprising the steps of:

receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock,

screening the selection of stocks, the screening process including the substeps of

identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and

identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and

ranking stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the substep of identifying the price/sales ratio or the price/earnings ratio includes the substeps of:

selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and

selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the request specifies the Standard and Poor index, and wherein the screening step includes the substeps of:

searching the Standard and Poor index within the database; and

identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Standard and Poor index.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request specifies the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and wherein the screening step includes the substeps of:

searching the Dow Jones Industrial Average within the database; and

identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criteria includes a buyback level and the substep of identifying the companies having buyback ratios further includes the substep of:

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identifying the companies in accordance with the buyback selection level.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of stocks repurchased.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of stocks repurchased.

8. The method of claim 1, further including the steps of generating an investment report comprising the ranking of stocks; and  
outputting the investment report.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the outputting step of includes the substep of:  
storing the investment report on a storage medium.

10. A computerized investment management system for creating an investment report, comprising:  
means for receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;  
means for selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock;

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means for screening the selection of stocks including

means for identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and

means for identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and

means for ranking stocks within the subset based on the price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the means for identifying a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio includes:

means for selecting the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and

means for selecting the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the request specifies the Standard and Poor index, and wherein the means for screening includes:

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means for searching the Standard and Poor index within the database;  
and

means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the  
Standard and Poor index.

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the request specifies the Dow Jones  
Industrial Average, and wherein the means for screening includes:

means for searching the Dow Jones Industrial Average within the  
database; and

means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios in the Dow  
Jones Industrial Average.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the selection criteria includes a buyback  
level and the means for identifying the companies having buyback ratios further  
includes:

means for identifying the companies in accordance with the buyback  
selection level.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the buyback selection level is a price  
value of stocks repurchased.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the buyback selection level is a  
numerical volume of stocks repurchased.

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17. The system of claim 10, further including:  
means for generating an investment report comprising the ranking of  
stocks; and  
means for outputting the investment report.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein outputting means includes:  
means for storing the investment report on a storage medium.

19. A computer readable medium containing instructions on controlling a data  
processing station for generating a buyback investment report comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection  
of stocks from a database of stock information;

a selecting module configured to select criteria for screening the selection  
of stock, wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and at least one of  
price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio for each stock;

a screening module configured to screen the selection of stocks  
including:

a first identifying module configured to identify the stocks from the  
specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio  
corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public  
during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares  
outstanding, and

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a second identifying module configured to identify a price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio in the group for each such stock of a subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and

a ranking module configured to rank stocks within the subset based on the price/sales or price/earnings ratio for each stock, wherein the stock having the lowest price/sales ratio or price/earnings ratio is ranked the highest.

20. The computer program product of claim 19, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying the market cap value of each company, and wherein the second identifying module includes:

a first selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the companies in a top half of market cap table; and

a second selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the companies in a bottom half of market cap table.

21. A computer implemented method for reporting on investments, or potential investments, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

identifying stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios,  
wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock

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repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

generating a report ranking a set of the identified stocks with buyback ratios based on at least one other selection criteria associated with performance of a corresponding company.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the selection criteria is selected from the group consisting of a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of the company, and wherein the step of generating a report includes the substeps of:

selecting the price/sales ratio for the company in a top half of market cap table; and

selecting the price/earnings ratio for the company in a bottom half of market cap table.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

accessing a Standard and Poor index; and wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of

identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

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25. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

accessing a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones

Industrial Average, and

wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of

identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones

Industrial Average.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of identifying stocks based on

information in the Dow Jones industrial Average database includes the substep of:

identifying the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the buyback selection level is a price

value of the stocks repurchased.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the buyback selection level is a

numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

29. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

outputting the report.

30. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

storing the report on a storage medium.

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31. An apparatus for reporting on investments, or potential investments,  
comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection  
of stocks from a database of stock information;

an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified  
selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage  
of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and  
resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

a generating module configured to generate a report ranking a set of the  
identified stocks with buyback ratios based on at least one other selection criteria  
associated with performance of a corresponding company.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the selection criteria is selected from  
the group consisting of a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the database includes a market cap  
value table for identifying a market cap value for the company, and wherein the  
generating module configured to generate a report includes:

a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the  
company in a top half of market cap table; and

a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the  
company in a bottom half of market cap table.

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34. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index;

and wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having

buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

35. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a database with information

corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having

buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

36. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the identifying module configured to

identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database

includes:

an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with

a buyback selection level.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the buyback selection level is a price

value of the stocks repurchased.

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38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

39. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:  
an outputting module configured to output the report.

40. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:  
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

41. A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for reporting on investments, or potential investments, the computer usable medium comprising:  
a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;  
an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease for shares outstanding; and  
a generating module configured to generate a report ranking a set of the identified stocks with buyback ratios based on at least one other selection criteria associated with performance of a corresponding company.

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42. The computer usable medium of claim 41, wherein the selection criteria is selected from the group consisting of a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

43. The computer usable medium of claim 42, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of the company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:

a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the [company in a top half of market cap table; and

a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the company in a bottom half of market cap table.

44. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index;

and wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

45. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

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an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

46. The computer usable medium of claim 41, wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes:

an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

47. The computer usable medium of claim 46, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of the stocks repurchased.

48. The computer usable medium of claim 46, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

49. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
an outputting module configured to output the report.

50. The computer usable medium of claim 41, further comprising:  
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

51. A computer implemented method for selecting investments or potential investments, comprising the steps of:

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receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

identifying stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

providing an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting at least one other selection criteria associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the [metric] selection criteria is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of [each] the company and wherein the step of providing an investment selection includes the substeps of selecting the price/sales ratio for the company in a top half of the market cap table; and

selecting the price/earnings ratio for the company in a bottom half of market cap table.

54. The method of claim 51, further comprising:

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accessing a Standard and Poor index; and wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of

identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

55. The method of claim 51, further comprising:

accessing a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the step of identifying stocks includes the substep of

identifying any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

56. The method of claim 51, wherein the step of identifying stocks based on information in the Dow Jones industrial Average database includes the substep of:

identifying the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of the stocks repurchased.

58. The method of claim 56, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

59. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of:

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outputting a report.

60. The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of:

storing a report in a storage medium.

61. An apparatus for selecting investments or potential investments,

comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

a generating module configured to provide an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting at least one other selection criteria associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the selection criteria is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

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63. The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of the company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:

a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the company in a top half of market cap table; and

a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the company in a bottom half of market cap table.

64. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index; and wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having a buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

65. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a database with information corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

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66. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average database includes:

an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with a buyback selection level.

67. The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the buyback selection level is a price value of the stocks repurchased.

68. The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

69. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:  
an outputting module configured to output the report.

70. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:  
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

71. A computer program product comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for selecting investments or potential investments, the computer usable medium comprising:

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a receiving module configured to receive a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

an identifying module configured to identify stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of shares of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding; and

a generating module configured to provide an investment selection selecting at least one of the identified stocks with buyback ratios and reflecting at least one other selection criteria associated with performance of a company corresponding to the at least one selected stock.

72. The computer usable medium of claim 71, wherein the selection criteria is selected from the group comprising a price/sales ratio and a price/earnings ratio, for each stock.

73. The computer usable medium of claim 72, wherein the database includes a market cap value table for identifying a market cap value of the company, and wherein the generating module configured to generate a report includes:

a selecting module configured to select the price/sales ratio for the company in a top half of market cap table; and

a selecting module configured to select the price/earnings ratio for the company in a bottom half of market cap table.

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74. The computer usable medium of claim 71, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a Standard and Poor index;

and wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having

buyback ratios based on information from the Standard and Poor index.

75. The computer usable medium of claim 71, further comprising:

an accessing module configured to access a database with information

corresponding to a Dow Jones Industrial Average, and

wherein the identifying module configured to identify stocks includes:

an identifying module configured to identify any companies having

buyback ratios based on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

76. The computer usable medium of claim 71, wherein the identifying module

configured to identify stocks based on information in the Dow Jones Industrial Average

database includes:

an identifying module configured to identify the stocks in accordance with

a buyback selection level.

77. The computer usable medium of claim 76, wherein the buyback selection

level is a price value of the stocks repurchased.

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78. The computer usable medium of claim 76, wherein the buyback selection level is a numerical volume of the stocks repurchased.

79. The computer usable medium of claim 71, further comprising:  
an outputting module configured to output a report.

80. The computer usable medium of claim 79, further comprising:  
a storing module configured to store the report on a storage medium.

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81. A computer implemented method for creating a buyback investment report comprising the steps of:

receiving a request specifying a selection of stocks from a database of stock information;

selecting criteria for screening the selection of stock wherein the selected criteria consists of a buyback ratio and a company performance ratio,

screening the selection of stocks, the screening process including the substeps of

identifying the stocks from the specified selection having buyback ratios, wherein a buyback ratio corresponds to a percentage of issued stock repurchased from the public during a specified period and resulting in a decrease of shares outstanding, and

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identifying the company performance ratio for each such stock of a  
subset of the stocks having buyback ratios, wherein the subset is  
determined based on the buyback ratio for each stock; and  
ranking stocks within the subset based on the company performance ratio for each  
stock, wherein the stock having the lowest company performance ratio is ranked the  
highest.

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